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the particulars therein regarding survey number, lekkom, area, &c. were correct. If incorrect, the document should be returned for rectification.

(2) He should similarly examine the pattas or title-deeds and satisfy himself that the executant really possessed the right, title or interest which he conveyed by the document in question.

(3) The parties should be asked to get their documents attested by the Proverthikar or by a Proverthy accountant in their official capacity in token of the correctness of the description and ownership of the properties as recited in the documents.

He added that the arrangements proposed were already in force in British India, and that, with a little difficulty, they could, with advantage, be introduced here also.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Director of Registration will be asked to report on the Member's suggestions.

## IV.—Agriculture.

**52. Suggestions for the Improvement of agriculture in the State.**

*Mr. K. N. Parameswaren Pillai* (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) observed, with regret, that the scope and facilities for agriculture were fast decreasing and that there was no extension of cultivation in proportion to the increase of population. The State was unable to produce the requisite paddy for consumption and large quantities were being annually imported from Burma and other places. The price of paddy had also gone up considerably. It was gratifying that a Department of Agriculture had been formed and the Director was informing the public by means of lectures and leaflets on agricultural matters. But the ryots in the rural parts did not benefit by it. The Director and his officers, he said, should go to the *yelas* and teach the ryots in the methods of cultivation. The number of Agricultural Inspectors was now insufficient for the purpose and should be increased so as to allow one Inspector for two taluks. Agricultural farms should also be opened in important centres and paddy cultivation experimented there and taught to the people. Seeds and manure should also be collected there and sold. Most of the irrigation sources had disappeared. They should be improved, even at the cost of acquiring lands for the same and a fixed annual allotment provided for their maintenance. He advocated the necessity for teaching agriculture in the schools as a subject in Class IV, and also for setting apart grazing grounds in every *pakuthi*.

*Mr. P. K. Nilakantan Elayathu* (Member, Alengad taluk) suggested the following measures for the development of agriculture :—

(1) An adequate amount should be set apart annually for the Agricultural Department with due regard to the importance of agriculture.

(2) One model agricultural school and not less than two model agricultural farms should be opened in each division. A model agricultural farm should be opened at Alwaye,

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which was centrally situated in respect of Parur, Alengad and Kunnathnad taluks.

(3) An Agricultural Inspector should be appointed for each taluk to advise the ryots in the methods of cultivation and to teach them the uses of new seeds and plants suited to local conditions.

(4) A manure and seed depot should be established in each taluk and manure and seed distributed to the ryots free or at nominal prices through the Agricultural Inspectors of the taluk, or through the Tahsildar, if there were no Inspectors in the taluk.

(5) District and Taluk Associations should be formed with the chief Revenue officer and the leading ryots as members to concert measures for the development of agriculture.

(6) A sufficient number of seed-bulls should be kept in each taluk under the charge of the Agricultural Inspector or the Tahsildar.

(7) Grounds should be reserved in each taluk for the grazing of cattle.

*Mr. P. S. Maruthanayagom Pillai* (Member, Kalkulam taluk) observed that agriculture was the chief industry of the State and that more than 67 per cent of the population were agriculturists. The condition of agriculture in the State was deteriorating year after year owing to the decreasing facilities, the deteriorating condition of the cattle, the want of manure and agricultural implements, the want of seasonal rains and many other reasons, natural and otherwise. In 1040 M. E., one kottah of paddy was worth only 14 fanams, while the same in 1087 was worth 47 fanams. In 1040, Travancore *exported* rice and paddy to the value of over two lakhs of rupees, while in 1087 rice and paddy to the value of ten crores of rupees nearly were *imported* into Travancore. It was true that the export value of cocoanut had increased during the period but the difference was inconsiderable. The tank-beds were being freely disposed of to the detriment of the agriculturist and his cattle. The water in the few tanks that were accessible to men and beasts were being bailed out for fishing. The gain to the Government from the sale of fishing rights in those tanks was very slight when compared to the hardships of the ryot for want of water for himself and his cattle. [On being informed by the Dewan that the fishing rights were sold subject to the condition that no water should be bailed out except for *bona fide* agricultural purposes and that any cases of violation of the order would be noticed if a list of such tanks were furnished to the Government, the Member said that there was no objection to the fishing rights being sold provided that no water was bailed out.] The want of co-operation between the Revenue, Irrigation and Forest Departments to help the agriculturist in his legitimate wants had been a stumbling block to the poor ryots. He then compared the percentage of revenue spent for agricultural purposes in most of the countries of Europe with that in Travancore, and he regretted that, in the State, where agriculture was the chief industry of the bulk of the population, it was so

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badly neglected. The land revenue of the State which in 1040 was about Rs. 16 lakhs had risen to Rs. 40 lakhs in 1087. The large increase was entirely contributed by the poor ryots who had not derived any corresponding benefits for the development of agriculture. It was therefore high time for the Government to enquire into the condition of agriculture and do the needful for the speedy development of the same. The Member suggested action being taken on the following lines :—

(1) Proper grazing grounds should be provided for the cattle as the lands now set apart were quite unsuitable for the purpose.

(2) Permission should be given for taking green manure and agricultural implements from the Government forests without the payment of any duty.

(3) The Director of Agriculture and his subordinate officers should be ordered to advise the ryots on the methods of cattle breeding.

(4) The slaughter of cattle should be ordered to be stopped in the interests of agriculture.

(5) The number of seed-bulls at the various agricultural centres should be increased, and they should be made available to the ryots more freely.

(6) The number of Veterinary surgeons and hospitals should be increased, and grants should be given to private persons skilled in the treatment of cattle diseases.

(7) Manure depots should be opened in each division. He said that he had tried artificial manure and found it useful. But it was a little too costly. Also, night-soil, poonac and bones should be collected in those depots and sold to the ryots at a nominal price.

(8) The number of Agricultural Inspectors should be increased so as to afford more facility to the ryots in taking their advice whenever necessary. The Inspectors should train the ryots in the cultivation of new varieties of seeds.

(9) Demonstration farms and experimental farms should be opened in all the important centres and improved and up-to-date methods of cultivation taught there. In the existing farms, experiments in paddy cultivation were not carried on and they should be started immediately.

(10) Agricultural exhibitions and cattle shows should be conducted every year.

(11) Agricultural schools for giving instruction in agriculture on a scientific basis should be opened.

(12) Agricultural associations should be formed. The people could very well join and form into an association, but the Government should help them by allowing Government buildings for holding their meetings.

(13) Co-operative credit societies should be formed and agricultural banks established.

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(14) Agricultural loans should be granted to the ryots at reduced rates of interest.

(15) An economic and agricultural survey of the State should be conducted.

(16) The Forest, Revenue and Irrigation Departments should act in consultation with one another and help the ryots in their legitimate wants.

(17) A committee should be formed to enquire into the present condition of agriculture in the State and advise on measures for its development.

*Dewan's reply.*—Noted.

53. Agriculture in South Travancore.

*Mr. A. M. Kumara Pillai, B. A. & B. L.* (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) dwelt at length on the present depressed condition of the agriculturists of South Travancore. He regretted to observe that, in G. O. No. 12861/L. R. & F., dated the 1st December 1912, the Government had again decided that they would not change the dates of opening and closing the Kodayar Reservoir. The ryots felt that it was a matter in which the Government could afford to give some relief to them, for, even when water was available in the Reservoir, it was hard that it could not be let out for cultivation at a time when it was most urgently wanted. It was well-known that the agricultural operations in South Travancore usually commenced with the first rains towards the close of Meenam, and they would be complete by the middle of Medam. It was about that time that the ryots felt the need of water, and if there were no rains, which was often the case, the crops withered away to their great loss. The Government had not much to lose by letting out water by that time, for, with the burst of the monsoons, the Reservoir would get filled again. If the Government persisted in not changing the date, the ryots had no alternative but to sow *kochu vithu* (tender seeds), which could be commenced later on with the Kodayar water and harvested before the next cultivation season. But the great disadvantage was that the *kochu vithu* would yield only fourfold crops as against twenty-folds obtained from the other seeds. It was in view of those difficulties that he made bold to bring the subject again so soon after the latest decision of the Government, and he earnestly requested that the Government might be pleased to allow 15 days more either at the beginning or at the close, preferably the former, and fix the 1st Edavam as the date of opening the Reservoir.

He next said that the breathless hurry with which the tank-beds in South Travancore were sold away was highly prejudicial to the interests of agriculture. With the first rains, the tank-beds were helpful to the ryots in conserving some water which might be made use of later on. In times of drought, even a small quantity of water sufficient for two or three days' watering was invaluable to put off, if not avert, the failure of crops. In times of floods those tank-beds served to prevent heavy breaches, and that was the reason why South Travancore was able to withstand even the heaviest monsoons in the past. During the last two years, several breaches occurred which, but for the timely action of the Public Works

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